

of fowls and ducks being brought for the ship's store, the greatest part of them presently died: this spread a general alarm on board, it being apprehended that they had been killed by poison: but on examination it appeared, that it was only owing to their being crammed with stones and gravel to increase their weight; the quantity thus forced into most of the ducks being found to amount to ten ounces in each: The hogs too, which were bought ready killed of the Chinese butchers, had water injected into them for the same purpose; so that a carcase, hung up all night that the water might drain from it, had lost above a stone of its weight. And when, to avoid this cheat, the hogs were bought alive, it was discovered that the Chinese gave them salt to increase their thirst, and having thus excited them to drink great quantities of water, they then took measures to prevent them from discharging it again by urine, and sold the tortured animal in this inflated state. When the commodore first put to sea from Macao, they practised an artifice of another kind; for as the Chinese never scruple eating any animal that dies of itself, they contrived, by some secret practices, that great part of his live sea-store should die in a short time after it was put on board, hoping to make a second profit of the dead carcases which they expected would be thrown over-board; and two third of the hogs dying before the Centurion was out of sight of land, many of the Chinese boats followed her, to pick up the carrion. These instances may serve as a specimen of the manners of this celebrated nation. But to return:

The commodore, toward the end of September, having found out (as has been said) that those who had contracted to supply him with sea-provisions and stores, had deceived him, and that the viceroy had not invited him to an interview, according to his promise; he saw it would be impossible for him to surmount the difficulties he was under, without going to Canton, and visiting the viceroy. And therefore, on the 27th of September, he sent a message